



Volume 22

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

November 2013

Counterpoise Editor - Susan Robins AF6LJ

Being Prepared For Disaster

Sue Robins AF6LJ

At our November meeting Monica Zech gave a very comprehensive presentation on preparedness for disaster. The presentation covered all aspects of being prepared, if there was something you might have known it was most likely covered in her presentation. The turnout was good for this month's meeting it was good to see everyone there. Check out Monica Zech's website at <http://monicazech.com/>



ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 220..480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2

Nominations

It is November and that means candidates for the club board of directors, and Ham of the Year are in. This crop of club members running for board positions promise to put a new face or two on the board. Here are the candidates running for the various board and officer positions.

President;

Pat Bunsold - WA6MHZ

Vice President;

Peter Krause - KJ6VCM

Treasurer;

Dave Ward - KI6GRN,

& Joseph Matterson - KI6TTF

Secretary;

Sue Robins - AF6LJ

Round out the officer candidates for the board.



Board of Directors candidates;

Chuck Wood - WD6APP.

Jack Moran - N6FUG,

Paul Thompson - KJ6BYF,

Joe Bennett - W6VMX,

Quinn Lacey - KI6LAT,

Noel Encarnacion - AG6KA

Last but not least, Ham of the Year candidates

Dave Ward - KI6GRN

& Tom Tennyson - WB6RSG

Let your voice be heard and come and vote, all members in good standing can vote for board positions and Ham of the Year.

Amateur Radio Display at Crest Firestorm 10th Anniversary

Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

Edited by AF6LJ

October 25th marked the 10th Anniversary of the worst firestorm ever to hit California, the Cedar Fire. Several thousand homes were burnt and many people killed in this very tragic event. Most of my Community, Crest, was also burnt. I was most fortunate to have my house survive, due to a Religious Miracle.

So for the 10th Anniversary, the community held a Commemoration event to show how things were and how we have recovered and rebuilt. The Crest Clubhouse was one of the buildings burnt, and a beautiful new center has been built to replace it. In their very wise wisdom, they chose to have a complete amateur radio emergency station installed with a 15KW Generator ready for the next disaster. The center is the designated EOC and Ham Radio will be a major part of Communications in and out.

Since I am the ARRL EC for Crest, I engineered and maintain the station, ready for use at a moments notice.



2 Dual band Verticals for VHF/UHF were installed and a G5RV on the Clubhouse roof.



So for the event, I ran a coax over to the main station G5RV and hooked it up to my new Yaesu FT-857D that I just got in. Here is the Radio display. On the left is the original GoKit, circa 2003, that I hurriedly lashed up to use at the Harbinson Canyon Evacuation center for comms assisting the Red Cross and churches providing aid to those with burnt houses. It consisted of a big Gel Cell, (Now long dead) and a 2M FM with speaker. I could make this into a new GoKit, but it is a Historical item that can't be touched. It will go in the new Radio Museum as a Firestorm Artifact.

On the Far right is the new and improved GoKit, that features a 2M FM, TNC (for Packet

and WINLINK), and 18AH Gel Cell. It is fully charged and ready for service at a moments notice. It even has a built in Antenna so no external antenna system is required. It uses a AEA Hotstick collapsible whip antenna. A switch selects voice operation or packet. The only thing that could be done to improve it is put in a battery charger; and there is room for that.



In the table center is a big Yaesu Map and the FT-857D. The yellow colored item is one of those auto jump starter packages that has been modified to access the battery inside. I have a cable coming out with a Power Pole connector to run the radio. It also has an 18AH Gel Cell and can ran the 857 all afternoon just fine. I can also recharge the battery through the Power Pole connector if need be.

A recent issue of QST is also on the table to show visitors about Ham Radio. The MFJ Tuner made the rig happy going into the G5RV, and I do love the dual needle wattmeter to show me great SWR. The CQWW SSB DX Contest was on, so the bands were plenty busy and visitors were



thrilled to hear overseas stations. This was the first time I powered up the FT-857D, which I got from QRZ.com. Many visitors came along and I discussed all aspects of Ham Radio and how relevant it is to Emergency Communications. The residents of Crest are well relieved that EMCOMM is ready for action should another terrible event occur again.

QRZ Turkey Day Net

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

It's no big secret I spend a lot of time online, I have been a part of online communities for over 2 decades now, going back to the days of Fido Net when it took a day or 2 to get a reply to a message posted to a discussion group. When I earned my ham license it was only natural to find a group and get involved in discussing all things amateur-radio. I found qrz.com forums which we lovingly call The Zed, and made it my online home.

One fall afternoon in 2009 a number of us involved ourselves in a discussion that started off with someone posting "Why don't you people get on the radio instead of chatting on the Internet", or something to that effect. Someone else had suggested we hold some kind of net, those involved in the discussion agreed. The idea of a weekly or a monthly net was met with Thumbs-Down, we spend enough time talking to each other on the net why carry that over into the radio when those discussions can often become heated? Someone mentioned. Then, and I don't know who but the suggestion was made to get together on Thanksgiving Day, we hashed it over and the consensus was Thanksgiving Day would be a good day for a on the air get together. I became the de facto promoter of the new Turkey Day Net.

Every year the TDN has grown, starting last year we now have a group that meets on CW, as well as the TDN expanding to more than 1 or 2 bands during the day. The first TDN was so successful we all moved from band to band as the day wore on. Members meeting other members went on well into the evening.

The whole idea was to get people who are online, on the radio and talking to others who post

on the QRZ forums, as I like to call it the TDN is a meet and greet for Zedders. The net gives people a chance to place a voice with that otherwise voiceless avatar and call sign seen on the forums. The TDN has also brought new members to QRZ forums, seeing the good will over the air has a benefit to activity on QRZ forums. Every November I run this as my signature line.

QRZ Turkey Day Net!

A meet & greet for Zedders November 28 2013 begins Thanksgiving Day 15:00UTC, 28.450, 21.300, 14.245, 7.245, 3.850MHZ + / - QRM. Look for CW TDN activity -50KHZ + / - QRL from the bottom of the most used voice bands.

Frequencies and the start time are based on last year's activity and give us a good starting point. There is a thread on QRZ.com in the Discussions, Opinions & Editorials forum at the top of the forum. That thread is used for the latest frequency and other activity related to the event and during TDN it updates rapidly. Come and join us, meet other hams, hope to see you there.

Next Month's Meeting

Next month's meeting will be a busy one for sure, we have elections for Board of Directors and Ham of the Year.

We also have our annual Christmas party which this year will be held at our regular meeting location in conjunction with our December Meeting. There will be a pot luck dinner so bring your favorite holiday dish. Besides the holiday cheer and good food there will be a prize drawing. Come share in holiday season comradery with other club members, we look forward to seeing you there.



Editor's Notes

Murphy seems to have the knack for timing life's little disasters at the optimum time. I take considerable pride in my abilities when it comes to both my past career and my hobbies. I have a few clients I do computer work for, most of the time it is education, but occasionally troubleshooting and repair are what my clients need most. I take great interest in what I do and enjoy it greatly, it doesn't matter if it is Counterpoise, restoring a boat anchor or recovering files from a hard drive about to die belonging to a frantic client. The acquisition and application of knowledge is the means and the end all in one.

Thursday morning (November 21) I turned on my computer on and the fans spun up and nothing else happened. The first thing I did was to turn on the Icom IC-756 in order to listen to my morning news and information program which also happens to be broadcast on short wave. I made the morning pot of coffee and over the first cup I began working the problem.

Because I do some online gaming and a lot of multi-media my computer is fairly powerful, all the parts were selected for performance and the computer was lovingly built by yours truly. By the time I had finished the first cup, I had nailed the problem down to either a bad motherboard or CPU. A quick conversation with my roommate and after work we would be off to Fry's for new parts. After the morning's chores, the computer was disassembled, it now became apparent what the cause of the failure might have been. One of the plastic anchors used by Intel to secure their heat sink to the processor had come loose. I had used dozens of these on computers built for people over the years and never had a problem, so this came at a bit of a surprise. A piece of plastic was going to make Counterpoise late, I was let down by a trusted product.

The good news; the computer was back on line in less than 24 hours, including driver installation and a lot of software installation to get things working again. I had a 2 week old

backup using it would mean starting over on this month's Counterpoise from the beginning, I decided to fix everything that was broken and install drivers in safe mode, by the time I was done it was getting light outside. I am sure glad I didn't have 1 to pay my own hourly rates to bring my computer back from the dead. My apologies to all for Counterpoise being late this month, believe me I wish it could have been avoided.

As always your content is welcome. If you have anything you would like to see included in Counterpoise please send it along.
counterpoise@wa6bgs.us



Early bird registration has begun for the 2014 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention to be held September 12-14 at the Four Points By Sheraton. For more information visit;
<http://www.sandarc.net/>

10th Annual
Yuma Hamfest
Yuma, Arizona
Feb. 14 & 15, 2014

Yuma County Fairgrounds
2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona

www.yumahamfest.org

Check the Website for Additional Information



Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon	Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm	Buzzard BBQ & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm
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Vendors & Exhibitors
Consignment Sales
License Testing
Hourly Door Prizes
On-site RV Camping
Famous Buzzard BBQ
ARRL Speaker
Transmitter Hunt
\$5.00 Admission

Tailgating (Swap Meet)
Full Seminar Schedule
DXCC Card Checking
Incredible Grand Prizes
Emergency Preparedness
Admission Prize
Hospitality Area
"Near Space" Balloon Launch
Antenna Clinic

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.840 (-) PL 88.5 Hz
Email Contact: Info@yumahamfest.org



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of our event.

Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization



Club Shirts & Jackets

We have 2013 club shirts and jackets available at meetings and from the club website. Shirts are available sizes from small to XX large, this year's shirt has a pocket and as usual is green in color with the club logo in white. The cost is \$12.00 each. You can get a 2013 Field Day shirt or the standard club shirt, both styles of shirts have the club logo on the back and the left side.

Jackets are also available in sizes ranging from Medium to XX large. These are of the lined windbreaker style, with side pockets and they snap down the front. The cost is \$24.00 each.

We also have a number of shirts from 2012, these shirts are identical to the 2013 shirts without the pocket, and they are available in both the standard club shirt and the 2012 Field Day shirt. Sizes are limited to stock on hand. For more information regarding our club shirts see;
<http://wa6bgs.us/2013-club-shirts-and-jackets/>



The AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON Inc.

WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and see the options at the bottom for Submitting options, all of the information is required for application to be accepted.

PRIMARY APPLICANT

Date of Application:

Amount Paid: Cash or Check

Check #:

Membership Type: Individual (\$20) Family (\$35)

Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member

Call Sign First Name Last Name WAMO # (If renewing or returning)

ARRL Member: Yes No

License Class: Technician General Extra Other:

Address City State Zip

Email ID Phone

Would you like a member badge? Yes No - Free with new membership, 1 per primary applicant

Add Additional Members Here (Family Membership):

First Name	Last Name	Call Sign	License Class	Minor?	ARRL?

Privacy Options

Do Not Call - Your phone number will be marked as a Do Not Call

Your phone number will not be listed on any publication

To submit this form, you can either print and mail it to P.O. Box 50 El Cajon, 92022

-OR- Click Submit on the right to save it as an FDF file and email it to wa6bgs@wa6bgs.us

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Cash Payments - Get a Receipt from the Club Treasurer. Make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for

payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with FCC Call Signs are Full Members with voting privileges, Members without FCC Call Signs are Associate members without voting privileges

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. is a 501©7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax Deductable.